

Whitby Rural District

REPORT

for the

YEAR 1947

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. A. READ, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
WHITBY RURAL DISTRICT
for the year 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Of salient interest during the year 1947 has been the provision of new housing. Forty-four houses have been provided and more are on order. The present programme is gradually dealing with the worst cases, but the housing survey on a later page gives some indication of the houses that will eventually be required to give each family a decent home. The improvement of congested areas such as Staithes and the old part of Robin Hood's Bay, will provide work for many years to come.

As on many previous years, water shortages have occurred, and prevailing conditions have imposed irritating delays to the Council's plans for betterment. The Hawsker, Goathland, Newholm and Roxby areas have caused concern. The coming year may see a beginning, at least, of some improvement in these districts.

Infectious disease has fortunately not caused any serious epidemics, but the nation-wide outbreak of Infantile Paralysis entailed much extra work and worry in the summer months. Both cases of Infantile Paralysis which occurred here were visitors who had apparently contracted the disease elsewhere. I am, therefore, thankful that none of the residents of the district have suffered from this distressing malady. With regard to other infectious diseases, I would stress again the importance of all babies being immunised against Diphtheria.

During the year 1947, the first complete year in which the Sanitary Inspector and I have served with you, the office work has been reorganised so as to allow full records of work to be kept and statistics to be available without undue delay. The provision in my office of a clerk for all district council work has facilitated the preparation of reports and the recording of work. Even yet some leeway has to be made up.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector are arduous and time-consuming, but it is confidently hoped that an additional Sanitary Inspector will be appointed in 1948.

I am indebted to Mr. Thompson for the notes regarding sanitary inspection in the following report.

Your obedient servant,

R. A. READ.

Grape Lane,
Whitby,
Yorks.

September, 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1947.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office held.	Whole or part time.	Other Public Offices held.
R. A. READ	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Medical Superintendent Isolation Hospital.	Whole.	Medical Officer of Health Whitby U.D.C. Scalby U.D.C. Scarborough R.D.C. Assistant School Medical Officer—North Riding C.C.
F. J. THOMPSON	M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector	Whole.	
Miss P. G. GRIMWOOD 4	S.R.N. General and Fever, C.M.B.	Matron, Isolation Hospital.	Whole.	

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Whitby Rural District extends from Staithes and Commondale in the North to Fylingdales in the South, and has an acreage of 113,771.

The main industry is mixed farming, with sheep farms on the moors. A certain amount of fishing is done at Staithes and Robin Hood's Bay, and visitors are catered for all over the district, especially at the seaside village of Runswick Bay and the two villages previously mentioned. Goathland as a moorland village is also very popular with visitors.

The mid-1947 population (Registrar-General's figure) is 12,060, and the rateable value £55,004 (the product of a penny rate being £213).

Vital Statistics.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	109	90	199
(Legitimate)	105	86	191
(Illegitimate)	4	4	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			16.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population, England and Wales			20.5

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Still Births	5	1	6
(Legitimate)	4	0	4
(Illegitimate)	1	1	2
Still Birth Rate			0.50
Still Birth Rate, England and Wales			0.50

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	103	73	176
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.6
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, England and Wales			12.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1947.

According to Registrar-General's Classification:—

	Male.	Female.	T'tl.
Influenza	0	1	1
Cancer of Mouth and Oesophagus	3	0	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5
Cancer all other sites	6	6	12
Diabetes	0	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	15	30
Heart Diseases	37	18	55
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	9	3	12
Bronchitis	2	7	9
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	1	4
Nephritis	3	2	5
Premature Birth	3	0	3
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries	4	2	6
Other Violent Causes	3	2	5
All Other Causes	8	9	17
	<hr/> 103	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 176

Infant Mortality.

Seven males and three females (all legitimate) died in 1947.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live
births 50.2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live
births, England and Wales 41.0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Health of expectant mothers, children under school age and school children, is the responsibility of the Child Welfare and School Medical Services of the North Riding County Council.

Nursing in the Home.

There are Nursing Associations at:—

- (1) Danby, Castleton and Commondale.
- (2) Lythe, Sandsend, Ugthorpe and Dunsley.
- (3) Glaisdale and Lealholm.
- (4) Goathland, Grosmont and Egton.
- (5) Robin Hood's Bay.

The County Council provide a midwife, who also acts as Health Visitor and School Nurse at:—

- (1) Hinderwell and Staithes.
- (2) Sleights, Aislaby, Hawsker and Robin Hood's Bay.

Hospitals.

The War Memorial Cottage Hospital, Whitby—
Voluntary.

The Joint Isolation Hospital, Stainsacre Lane—Whitby
Rural District Council and Urban District Council.

Whitby County Institution — North Riding County
Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

St. John's Ambulance, Whitby.

Fever Ambulance, Whitby Joint Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Whitby Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following cases were admitted during 1947:—

	Urban.	Rural.	T'tl.
Scarlet Fever	5	9	14
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	2
Diphtheria	0	1	1
Septicaemia	1	1	2
Erysipelas	1	2	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	2	2
Acute Tonsillitis	3	1	4
Observation	9	0	9
	—	—	—
	21	16	37
	—	—	—

Three patients died, one female of 73 years with Scarlet Fever, one female—breast abscess and heart disease, one female—acute laryngitis with obstruction.

Average stay of each patient in days	22.5
Average stay of each Urban patient in days	22.5
Average stay of each Rural patient in days	22.75
Daily average occupied beds	2.48

The daily average of occupied beds was in:—

1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
2.48	2.1	5.19	4.43	7.6

Infectious Diseases were notified as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	10
Whooping Cough	30
Diphtheria	1
Measles	17
Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	3
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	2

Immunisation against Diphtheria was continued throughout the year:—

	Under 5 years, of age.	Over 5 years, but under 15.	Total.
Number of children immunised during 1946	130	8	138
Number of children immunised during 1947	108	3	111

Tuberculosis, 1947.

During the year two male patients were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one male and four female patients were notified as suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis in 1947.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

A Regional Scheme for augmenting the water supply in the Rural District has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer, and it has been approved, in principle, by the Minister of Health. It is anticipated that a Public Inquiry will be held at an early date. There are still Villages without a proper and sufficient supply and shortages occur during the summer months. In view of the delay which will arise before the Regional Scheme comes to fruition, various temporary schemes are being prepared. These will eventually form part of the Regional Scheme.

Fifty water samples were taken during the year. Thirty-six of these were in connection with proposed farm water supply schemes, 5 were concerned with proposed supplies to private houses, and 9 were from existing public and private supplies.

Of the 50 samples taken, 12 were satisfactory, 1 suspicious, and 37 contaminated in varying degrees. 32 of the latter samples were of the water to be used in proposed water schemes to farms and private houses, and, where repeated samples continued to show pollution, alternative sources of supply had to be found.

Three of the contaminated samples were from public supplies. One of these was from one of the Council's piped supplies. The polluted springs were located and cut off and the supply made satisfactory. The other 2 samples were from public wells, and the consumers were warned to boil the water until alternative supplies could be provided.

Of the approximate number of 3,982 houses in the District, 2086 are supplied with water from the Council's water mains, and 300 from the water mains of the Whitby Waterworks Company.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A Regional Scheme for the sewerage of the District has been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer. There have been no extensions to the sewerage system carried out this year. Many villages urgently require sewerage.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The total number of closets in the District and the number of each type of closet is not known at present, but approximate figures will be available when the Rural Housing Survey is completed during 1948. Owing to the absence of sewerage schemes in many Villages, there is a considerable number of dry closets, mostly of the pail type, and there are also several privy closets and privy ashpits. It is hoped to reduce considerably the number of dry closets in the near future, as sewerage schemes become available.

The Council makes a grant of £2 towards the cost of conversion of each dry closet to a water closet. Where a piped water supply and sewer are available, owners are requested to effect conversions where necessary. During the year, 45 dry closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 78 water closets were provided in new houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection:

As the District is a holiday resort, particular attention is given to refuse collection and disposal. The work is carried out by direct labour. Of the 22 Parishes in the Rural District (embracing 44 Villages and Hamlets spread over an area of 178 square miles) a weekly collection of both dry and wet refuse is made in 15 of these Parishes, and a fortnightly collection in 2 Parishes.

Two refuse collection lorries are employed, manned by seven men. During the year the lorries were renewed, the old lorries having given nine years satisfactory service in a district which must be one of the hilliest in the country. The new lorries have 10 cubic yard all-steel bodies with sliding metal covers, mounted on Bedford 5-ton chassis. The bodies and cabs are by Messrs. Spurlings and the hydraulically-operated tipping gear by Messrs. Bromilow and Edwards Ltd.

LIST OF THE PARISHES AND VILLAGES

in which a collection of refuse is made (the collection is weekly unless otherwise stated).

Parish.	Villages and Hamlets included in the Parish.
AISLABY	Aislaby Village.
COMMONDALE	Commondale Village.
DANBY	{ Danby, Castleton, Ainthorpe, Fryup (fortnightly)
EGTON	Egton and Egton Bridge Villages
ELLERBY	Ellerby Village
ESKDALESIDE-CUM-UGGLEBARNBY	{ Sleights, Iburndale, Ugglebarnby Grosmont
FYLINGDALES	Robin Hood's Bay, Thorpe
GLAISDALE	Glaisdale, Lealholm, Houlsyke
GOATHLAND	Goathland Village
HAWSKER-CUM-STAINSACRE	Hawsker, Stainsacre
HINDERWELL	{ Hinderwell, Port Mulgrave, Runswick Bay, Staithes, Dalehouse.
LYTHE	{ Sandsend, Lythe, Goldsborough and Kettleness (fortnightly)
MICKLEBY	Mickleby Village (fortnightly)
SNEATON	Sneaton Village
UGTHORPE	Ugthorpe Village (fortnightly)
WESTERDALE	Westerdale Village
NEWHOLM-CUM-DUNSLEY	Newholm Village

Refuse Disposal:

The refuse is disposed of by tipping and incineration. There are three points of disposal, i.e., the Council's tip at Mickleby, a privately-owned tip at Eskdaleside, and the refuse disposal works of the Whitby Urban District Council. The proportion of the refuse disposed of at each of these places is given below:—

Mickleby Tip	661 loads
Eskdaleside Tip	255½ loads
Whitby U.D.C.'s Refuse Disposal Works	215 loads
Total	<hr/> 1,131½ loads <hr/>

Because of the few disposal points and the area of the district, the refuse lorries have to make long hauls, but, on the other hand, the number of tips (and possible nuisance) is reduced to a minimum and salvage work and supervision are facilitated.

Salvage:

Salvage work is undertaken in conjunction with the collection of house refuse. Waste paper and cardboard are kept separate from the house refuse, a trailer being used for the purpose. Bottles, jars, rugs, bones and metals are sorted from the refuse at the tips. The salvaged materials are sold, and the work shows a small profit after deducting expenses. The gross income from salvage was as follows:—

Paper, 10 tons 3 cwts.	65	18	0
Bottles and Jars, 1,455 dozen...	58	14	7
Rags, 17 cwts. 3 qrs.	10	9	1
Bones, 1 ton 18 cwts.	8	13	7
Metals, 5 tons 14 cwt. 2 qrs. ...	16	2	1
	<hr/>		
	£	159	17 4
	<hr/>		

In addition, the Whitby Urban District Council received £16 10s. 11d., and the owner of a private tip at Eskdaleside £17 6s. for salvage obtained from refuse brought in by this Council's lorries from the Rural District.

Street Sweeping:

This is carried out by the Council at Staithes, Hinderwell, Runswick Bay, Robin Hood's Bay and Thorpe.

Public Conveniences:

The Council has provided and maintains Public Conveniences at Staithes (2), Hinderwell, Runswick Bay, Robin Hood's Bay, Danby and Castleton, and additional conveniences are planned for Robin Hood's Bay, Thorpe, and Sleights.

There are also Public Conveniences at Eastrow and Sandsend, which are owned and maintained by the Mulgrave Estate.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	No. of Inspections.
Water Supplies	89
Sewers and Sewage Works	16
Refuse Collection	69
Salvage Depots and Refuse Tips	42
Property Alterations (Building Licences)	46
General Inspections	121
Complaints Investigated	68
Private Drains Inspected	120
Disinfecting	1
Pig Stys	4
Ice-Cream Manufacturing Premises	2
Camping Sites	4
Petroleum Storage Sites	7
Public Conveniences	52
Cowhouses and Dairies	121

HOUSING.

Rural Housing Survey:

The Survey was continued during the year and a summary of the position at the end of the year is given below:—

Parish. or Village.	No. of Houses Surveyed.	Classification.					Legally Over- crowded.
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Aislaby	50	8	16	16	10	10	3
Barnby	17	1	-	14	4	2	-
Hinderwell	128	33	35	49	7	11	2
Port							
Mulgrave	78	4	33	35	2	6	4
Staithes	362	87	50	154	37	71	11
Runswick							
Bay	117	60	18	19	7	20	2
Robin							
Hood's Bay	324	98	26	167	8	33	2
Thorpe and							
Raw	115	14	31	53	13	17	1
Castleton	118	8	29	64	18	17	2
Ainthorpe	33	7	6	15	8	5	-
Danby	56	11	10	28	9	7	1
Houlsyke	8	-	-	7	4	1	-
Lealholm	53	2	7	37	5	7	-
Glaisdale	111	12	34	61	10	4	2
Egton	110	7	6	81	16	16	2
	1680	352	301	800	158	227	32

NOTES:—

- Class I. ... Satisfactory in all respects.
 Class II. ... Minor Defects.
 Class III. ... Repairs or structural alterations required.
 Class IV. ... Suitable for re-conditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Act.
 Class V. ... Unfit and suitable for demolition.
 Class IV. houses are also included in Classes III. or V., according to their condition.

DETAILS OF SANITATION.

Parish.	No. Inspected.	No. without internal water supply.	No. without Scullery Sinks.	No. with W.C.'s.	No. with dry closets.	No. without baths.
Aislaby	50	12	15	11	39	37
Barnby	17	12	8	1	16	16
Hinderwell	128	27	26	97	31	76
P. Mulgrave	78	26	27	34	44	76
Staithes	344 18*	55	59	318	26	217
Runswick B	116 1*	13	15	107	9	39
R. H. Bay	319 5*	39	45	313	6	158
Thorpe & Raw	115	31	27	84	31	61
Castleton	116 2*	20	17	56	60	65
Ainthorpe	33	10	8	13	20	15
Danby	56	13	10	23	33	28
Hculsyke	8	2	3	—	8	8
Lealholm	53	18	12	5	48	41
Glaisdale	111	10	15	58	53	55
Egton	110	44	42	11	99	95
	1654 26*	332	329	1131	523	987

* Represents houses already scheduled for demolition and empty, or houses derelict and unoccupied.

As the Survey proceeded, the attention of Owners was drawn in cases where houses required urgent repairs or improvements. Altogether, requests were made to repair or improve 591 houses. Owing to the limited staff available, it has not yet been possible to revisit all these houses, but in at least 31 instances it was found that repairs had been carried out.

It was necessary to serve legal notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of one house, and under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of two houses. All three notices were complied with.

The general state of repair of the houses in the district is poor, and the arrears of maintenance, which accumulated during the war years, have not yet been overtaken. The Council's policy of employing the small builders in the Rural District to build Council houses has also had an adverse effect upon repair work to existing houses. Another difficulty is that house rents generally are small, and many owners have not the capital necessary to carry out major repairs and improvements.

Overcrowding:

Two overcrowded families were re-housed in Council houses during the year.

Movable Dwellings:

There are 4 licensed camping sites in the district accommodating a maximum of 64 dwellings. In addition, licences were issued to station 10 individual dwellings on various sites. The dwellings consist mainly of trailer caravans used for holiday purposes only, and none of them is occupied permanently.

New Houses:

Forty-four new houses were erected during the year, 34 for the Council and 10 for private owners, and these made a welcome contribution towards the relief of the acute housing shortage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:

There are 780 Cowkeepers and Dairymen on the Register. Owing to staff limitations it is not possible to carry out inspections of cowhouses and dairies as frequently as desired, but all new producers are visited and advice given upon

buildings and methods. The general standard of both buildings and cleanliness is low, but is improving slowly.

Six cowhouses were altered and brought up to standard, providing satisfactory accommodation for 87 cows, and 3 new farm dairies were erected.

Graded Milk Production:

There are 4 producers of accredited milk and 8 producers of tuberculin-tested milk in the District. The total of 12 is disappointingly small in view of the large number of cowkeepers, but there is evidence of increasing interest by farmers in graded milk, and the number of producers is likely to increase in the near future.

Meat and Other Foods:

Home-killed meat for the Rural District is supplied from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Egton.

134 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse during the year for the purpose of meat inspection.

The total number of animals slaughtered was as follows:

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
580	102	1,352	209	2,243

The quantity of unfit food condemned during the year is given below. The large amount of meat and offals condemned is mainly due to the high proportion of casualty animals received at the Slaughterhouse.

	Tons.	cwts.	lbs.
Meat	8	15	56
Offals	3	16	28
Tinned Meat		5	70
Other Foods		1	75
Total ...	12	19	5

Ice-Cream:

Five premises were registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream. In 3 instances the ice-cream is manufactured under the "hot-mix" system and the remaining 2 under the cold-mix system.

Owing to the general shortage of equipment for ice-cream manufacturing, none of the 3 manufacturers under the "hot-mix" system has yet been able to obtain the appliances necessary to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc., Regulations 1947), and the time limit for obtaining such equipment has now been extended by the Minister of Health to 1st May, 1949.

